



## Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

**NAME OF AGENCY:** Olympic Ballet Theatre  
**ADDRESS:** 700 Main Street, Edmonds, WA 98020  
**CONTACT:** (425) 774-7570; <http://www.olympicballet.com/>

**GENERAL GOALS:** The mission of Olympic Ballet Theatre (OBT) is to develop and sustain professional dance, promote dance as a creative performing art, and engage the widest possible audience with a stimulating repertoire of classical, contemporary, and dramatic ballets.

### SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

This award was used as support for operational expenses and programs.

For more information please read the attached report from Olympic Ballet Theatre.



**From:** [mara@olympicballet.com](mailto:mara@olympicballet.com) [<mailto:mara@olympicballet.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 16, 2017 1:43 PM  
**To:** Marilyn Sheldon  
**Cc:** [mara@olympicballet.com](mailto:mara@olympicballet.com); [dance@olympicballet.com](mailto:dance@olympicballet.com)  
**Subject:** Q3 2016 14.2 - Olympic Ballet Theatre Trainee Program Funding

## Q3 2016 14.2 - Olympic Ballet Theatre Trainee Program Funding

Dear Marilyn,

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the support received from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund for our Trainee Program in the 2016-17 Season. The [REDACTED] grant helped further our mission to develop and sustain professional dance by supporting young artists in their quest to become professional dancers. Through our Trainee Program, we were able to provide promising young dancers tuition-free training, shoes and equipment, and invaluable performance experience alongside renowned professional dancers in Olympic Ballet Theatre performances all season long.

Aside from the 7 talented young dancers that we awarded Trainee positions to, the funding received was far-reaching, directly affecting nearly 10,000 people in our community, including OBT patrons, as well as young students in Olympic Ballet School, and the additional jobs in the arts that the grant helped provide. With the grant received to develop our Trainee Program, we were able to hire more instructors, including renowned artists such as Laura Tisserand, Principal dancer with Pacific Northwest Ballet, Chris Montoya, former artist with Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, and choreographer Vincent Lopez, former artist with Spectrum Dance Theater and Whim W'him to come in and work with our Trainees. Also due to funding received, we were able to present higher professional quality productions with Trainee participation in performances, and the younger students in Olympic Ballet School directly benefited from the inspiration the Trainees provided, well as the inspiration the Trainees provided.

The specific objectives of the Trainee Program are:

- Assist pre-professional talented ballet students bridge the gap between finishing schooling and starting a professional career in dance by providing tuition-free continuing education and performance opportunities as well as financial support in the form of shoes, stipends, etc.
- Simultaneously improve the quality of Olympic Ballet Theatre performances by incorporating Trainee dancers into productions, for greater cultural enrichment in our community

Both objectives of our Trainee program listed above were met this season. With several applications received, we selected seven highly talented young dancers and awarded them with Trainee positions. In addition to the afternoon classes that Trainees were expected to attend with Olympic Ballet School students, we were able to start a morning program just for company dancers and Trainees. Trainees were provided classes, coaching, and performance opportunities free of charge, as well as assistance with pointe shoes. At the conclusion of this season's

program, four out of seven Trainees were offered employment for next season in various companies, including Olympic Ballet Theatre.

Though the Trainee Program has been a big success, one goal that we would have liked to see reached was the full expansion of the program as envisioned. Without enough funds raised this past season for the Trainee Program, we weren't able to offer stipends to our select dancers, which we feel is an important draw for top talent. Other similar programs nation-wide provide small stipends to their pre-professional dancers in addition to tuition-free classes. We would like to be able to stay competitive with national Trainee programs, to attract the most talented dancers to Edmonds.

Our plans for the future are to continue to develop our Trainee Program. We are currently in the process of raising funds as budgeted to award Trainee positions for the 2017-18 season. Overall, we strive to expand upon the program to allow for more dancers, a bigger repertoire, more performances, and longer working periods. By providing young artists on the brink of professional careers the opportunity to refine their training tuition-free, while providing valuable work experience and performance opportunities, we aim to attract top talent to Olympic Ballet Theatre. This will not only increase the quality of performances we present to the community, but will also work to inspire from within. Even the youngest children of Olympic Ballet School will feel motivated to work hard to achieve the high level of technique and artistry demonstrated by Trainees, with the knowledge that they may also one day be awarded Trainee positions with Olympic Ballet Theatre, and continue on to professional careers in dance.

Sincerely,

Mara Vinson  
Co-Artistic Director  
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